

SECRET

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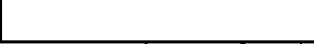
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4.  In the course of several casual, social conversations over the weekend, Senator William Spong (D., Va.) raised the question of whether we had provided timely warning of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. I said we had certainly alerted the community to the high state of readiness of Soviet forces but that apparently the final Kremlin decision to act was taken only a few hours before the invasion began and was not the kind of thing on which precise intelligence information could be expected.

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